



Volume 21

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

- November 2012

Issue 11

Counterpoise Editor - Joe Bennett KJ6VMX

Happy Holidays, Good Zombie & Lobster Hunting!!!!



November and December are the holiday season, and I would like to thank the members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon for providing me with the repeaters to communicate with other members over the air via our weekly nets. Also, for a place to see and socialize with other members “eyeball to eyeball” too. I look forward to the upcoming year with a sense of optimism and hope that all members of ARCEC will work together to make the events we have planned top last years and prove to be the envy of other clubs in the county. Look towards our web site to provide the information and opportunity to join in at our Field day events, club picnic, monthly meetings, and much more. Work more WAMO! contacts (I know I will myself), and participate in the various club nets too. They are a lot of fun and you learn much about those who take the time to join in. Need assistance with your antenna, or radio? Just ask as there are many “Elmers” just waiting to be of assistance to you. Not yet a member, JOIN, and help out your fellow HAMS in any way you can. Our clubs success depends on you, its members, to grow and become a valuable asset to the membership as well as to the community at large. I look forward to talking with you all, and seeing you around too. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas and productive New Year.

Joe - KJ6VMX

ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 220.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



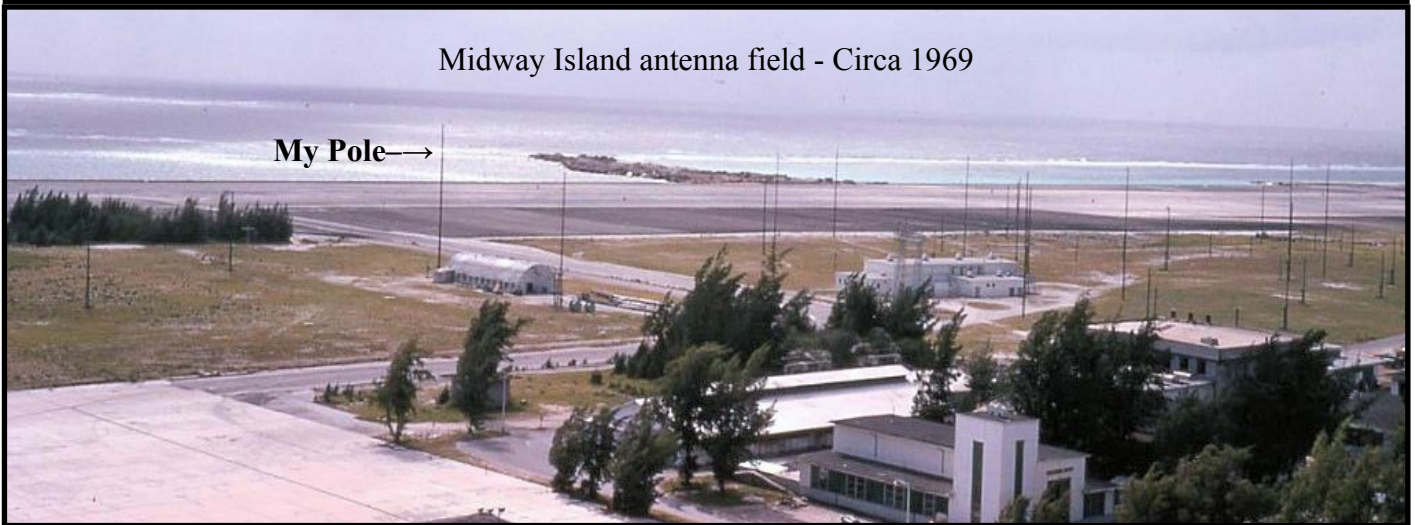
Mystery of the Masthead for October

By Joe -KJ6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

Way back in November of 1969 I was stationed at Midway Island, my first actual duty station. Fresh out of CE "A" school I was bursting with new knowledge and skill in the electrical trade. My first day at the Public Works Department I was tasked with climbing a 90' pole in the nearby antenna field. (The one I actually climbed is the leftmost and tallest in the photo, just beside the long Quonset hut). These poles supported the long wire antennas used to communicate with Naval Headquarters and facilities around the world. As it happens, an aircraft clearance light bulb had burned out and needed changing, and I was the person that would make the replacement. So, under the direction of a CPO from the PW Department I checked out a set of climbing gear, gloves, gaffs, safety belt, and more. After setting up at the location, I slowly climbed to the top of the pole, trailing a rope tied to a grunt bag. Took at least ½ hour to make the ascent. Changed the bulb, and took another ½ hour to make the decent. Arriving safely on the ground the Chief said to me, "Good job Bennett, now we know who to have make any future bulb replacements". I looked him in the eye and said, "Nope, never going to climb another of these poles again Chief", and I never did either. 90' is a long way up, but it is even farther down once you get there, and I speak from experience too!!!! So I can say with authority, "Heights don't bother me, but depths scare the heck out of me, for sure....Now, see if you can figure out where this months Masthead was taken, and what it has to do with Amateur Radio. Please feel free to send me your comments at www.counterpoise@wa6bgs.us. Thanks all....

Midway Island antenna field - Circa 1969

My Pole→



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10AM-5:30PM Mon - Sat

Telephone hours:

9:30AM-5:30PM Mon-Sat

858-560-4928

220 on the Hill

By Joe Bennett - KJ6VMX

Crest, about 0900 local time, and the air was



filled with good breakfast smells. Sabastian and I were there to meet with several others and have breakfast at the Crest Community Clubhouse. Pat (WA6MHZ) was cooking eggs when we arrived and entered the meeting room. After a hearty breakfast, we met up with Pat, Daniel (KJ6IOB), Dave (KI6GRN), and Dave (W6BTS), for the short trip to the top of the hill in Crest. There we met up with Jason from the Water Department who had opened the gate and repeater building for our group. Pat and Dave proceeded to investigate what would be needed to accomplish the installation of our new 220 repeater in the existing cabinet. As it turned out, quite a lot would be involved, including the rearrangement of some of the gear to allow the new repeater to fit fully into the cabinet. While they worked on the gear, Sabastian and I had an opportunity to look the site over. What a fantastic view of the El Cajon basin and most of San Diego county from sea to mountains. Could even see the Imperial Beach Pier, and many other landmarks. Sharing the hill top with the water towers was a large microwave installation too. We seemed to be

on top of the world up there. With only a couple of other minor glitches the job was completed, but another visit or two would be needed to work out a few bugs in the installation. There still remains the task of learning the software programing to allow the repeater to be linked to the 2 meter and the 440 as well, but that should soon be figured out too. Thanks to all who helped out on the hill.



Pacificon/ARRL National Convention Report

by Pat - WA6MHZ

This year, the ARRL chose the PACIFICON, the Pacific Division Convention in Santa Clara, CA as the site of the National Convention. It was held over the weekend of Oct 12-14 at the Santa Clara Marriott, a very upscale hotel right next to the Great America theme park. I was invited to attend as I had run the Youth Kit Building booth at last years Pacificon. That had gone very well, and they were anticipating another great showing.

The League has a similar Kit Building booth at Dayton (which I have worked at for the past 3 years) and they wanted to do it again at the National, but were convinced one booth would be enough. HQ most Graciously lent us the 20 Soldering stations for use at the booth. Friday morning, I drove up with my good wife KB6RCT; starting out at 3AM. It is a 500 mile trip and takes a good 7 or 8 hours to make it that far. Here is Vuong piloting the Luxury Town Car in a very rare event. Normally she is not allowed to drive this car. She has to sit on a thick pillow to see over the dashboard! We arrived without incident (the Town Car was stalling and failing to start several times the day before) and checked into the Hotel. Now it was time to set up the booth for the kids to solder at. Helping out in the booth was Kati K7KTI, who will turn 13 next month. Here she is with Mary, another young Ham. Kati's Dad Leif KT7DAD helped set up the booth. I and my wife took Leif and Kati out to dinner that night and we had a good night's sleep (dog tired after getting up at 3AM!!) Also attending the Convention was Astronaut Lee KF5DDB, fresh from the ISS Space Station! He got a pic with Kati. The next morning, at 5AM, it was time for the Pacificon SWAP-MEET, and I was ready to score big! Never can have too much JUNK! First I found a Heathkit HW-8 for \$75, and then a couple Speakers and finally an Icom IC-211 2M Multimode for \$5!!!

But I had blown my cash wad when I came across an item I DESPERATELY needed! A MFJ-998 1500W Autotuner for \$400. I rushed inside the use the ATM machine which refused to give me a cent. Don't know why, as my card is good as was my account. But it didn't talk to my bank's network and stiffed me on the payout. So no Tuner! Daylight came and the swapmeet was busier than ever! Here is a nice display of old Mics from the early days of broadcast! More nice

boatanchors for sale, which I should have bought!! Saturday morning, the booth was busy, but I went over to see Bob WB1GCM, the ARRL HQ Lab engineer who does all the reviews for new rigs. Bob had his portable Spectrum Analyzer with him to measure Hts for the attendees. Bob also runs the Kit Building booth at Dayton. One of the first programs on the Schedule was a program by Kati where she told how she became a ham and about her ham life. She is a marvelous presenter! Back at the Youth booth, kids were learning to solder. Here is a Cub Scout making his first Solder joint. My wife, an experienced Assembler, helped out too with the kids learning to solder. She was able to talk in Chinese to this mom and help her boy to solder.

In the afternoon, I went to the forum room and put on my 2 programs, "W6D Dxpediton to DAYTON" and then the Crest Radio Museum show "Collecting and Restoring Ham Radios of the Past". They were PACKED and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Saturday night, we were honored to go to the Grand Banquet where Kati and Ellie, another young ham, were dressed like they were going to the PROM! Sunday morning, the Swapmeet was SUPPOSED to be there but it wasn't. The Convention was a GHOST TOWN! But as folks woke up, the convention ramped up again and we were as busy as ever helping kids learn to solder. Right across the aisle from me was a TEASING session: A Ftdx5000 next to a Ftdx9000!!! Look what you CAN'T HAVE!!!! Kids continue to solder as we help them learn about electronics. My wife and I stayed overnight on Sunday so we could go to evening Church and rest up before the long long drive back. Monday afternoon, we were back in San Diego with a TRUNK FULL OF JUNK! But, no Autotuner, alas!!! I forgot about it at the time, but I could have PAYPAL'd him for the amount with my cellphone!!!! Well, maybe I will come across another some day!

This was a wonderful convention, and I have been invited back Next year for Pacificon 2013! Long ways away, but a lot closer than DAYTON!!

73

WA6MHZ

Editors Notes: Due to formatting issues, Pat's photos have been included on a separate page. Consider it a treasure hunt for November. Thanks for a great article and photos Pat. Glad you had a safe and productive trip to Pacificon.

Joe - KJ6VMX - Counterpoise Editor



Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Photo #4



Photo #5



Photo #6



Photo #7



Photo #8



Photo #9



Photo #10



Photo #11



Photo #12



Photo #13

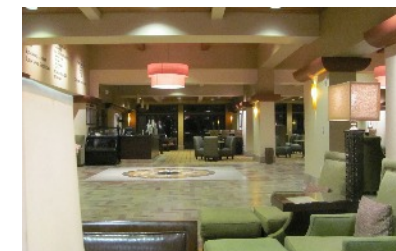


Photo #14



Photo #15



Photo #16



Photo #17



Photo #18

Photos from previous page, in no particular order.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon Club Nets

Day	Time	Name	Description	Net Control	Repeater
Sunday					
Monday	7:00 pm	Donut Net	Trivia & general interest questions	KI6RRN Axel	ARCEC
Tuesday	8:00 pm	Wide Open Net	Almost anything goes with Frito	N6WKB Frito	ARCEC
Wednesday	8:00 pm	WAMO Net	WAMO contacts, roundtable, buy-sell, swap, 73 round	KJ6IOB Daniel	ARCEC
Thursday	7:00 pm	Fritos 10 Meter Net	Starts on 10M and moves to 2M	N6WKB Frito	ARCEC
Friday					
Saturday	8:00 pm	WAMO Net	Roundtable, sell-buy-swap, club news, 73 round	KJ6BFT Margaret KJ6GOO Heather	ARCEC

Work All Members Once



WA6BGS web site - interesting happenings

December is Election time for new Officers and Board of Directors too. So be sure to either vote via the web site, or at the up coming membership meeting in December. Make your voice heard and vote for your favorite representatives for the next years positions.

Check out the important club related documents, minutes, reports, and other vital information available to all members of ARCEC.

Check out the winners of the Ham of the Year and the Home Brew Contest.

All this and more at www.wa6bgs.us TODAY!!!!

Contact Information:

Web Site: www.wa6bgs.us
 President: president@wa6bgs.us
 Vice President: vicepresident@wa6bgs.us
 Secretary: secretary@wa6bgs.us
 Treasurer: treasurer@wa6bgs.us
 Counterpoise: counterpoise@wa6bgs.us
 Club Phone number is **619-663-6011**

Monthly Amateur Radio License Exam

1st Saturday of the Month Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc.

El Cajon First Lutheran Church, 867 South Lincoln, El Cajon, CA 92020 9 :00 AM
 Contact Gereld N. Madsen - Jerry KI6PLH, (619) 766-9177 (walk-ins welcome).

How to find the exam site

From the West: Take I-8 East, Exit El Cajon Blvd/Chase Ave. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Chase Avenue. Go about 1.5 miles to South Lincoln Avenue. Lincoln will be 1 block after Avocado Drive. Turn left on South Lincoln. We are 2 blocks up on the right.

From the East: Take I-8 West, Exit Mollison Avenue. Go South on Mollison about 2 miles to Washington. Turn right on Washington. Go 1 block and turn left on South Lincoln. We are 1 block up on the left.

Important!! Get your free FRN ID from the FCC

Be sure to visit the FCC web site and obtain your FRN identification prior to coming to take your exam. You will need it to show you have registered with the FCC, and so that we can send your exam results to them for processing and licensing.

Santee Swap Meet First Saturday of each month

Santee Electronics Swap Meet is the first Saturday of each month at Santee Drive-In east side of Highway 67, South of Riverford Rd. in Santee, CA Starting at 6:30 AM, talk-in 146.520, Buyers \$1.00 Find out more information at EL Cajon ARC website at www.WA6BGS.US. Club stall is open for buyers/sellers from 6:30 am until 9 am. Please feel free to bring your own Ham related items to sell at the Club stall. Just remember that you must stay with your items until they sell, or take them with you when you leave,. Many thanks to N6JOJ (Tom) for his fine work.

Notice of Disclaimer

All companies mentioned in the Counterpoise are done as a courtesy and a convenience to both the membership and the company. No compensation has been solicited and none has been accepted, and no endorsement has been made.

Joe - KJ6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

Health and Welfare Information

The HAM community lost one of its own with the passing of Virgil E. Pattin (K7VP) on November 5th 2012. He is survived by his wife Ruth, and will be missed by many of those who knew him.

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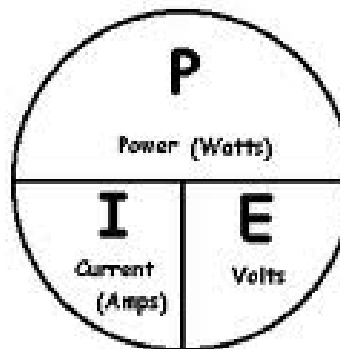
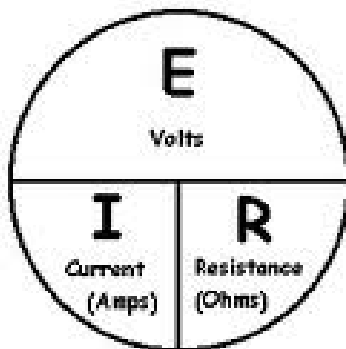
Earl Towson (N1QJ) reports his health is declining and he is now on a pacemaker. We all wish him well.

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Tom (N6JOJ) is home and recovering from recent heart surgery. He is becoming more active on the nets, and will soon be back to his busy life style. Welcome home Tom.

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Ohm's Law



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Willy's Electronic Supply - National City
1636 D Avenue
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Hours:
Mon-Fri 9 am - 6 pm
Sat 9 am - 5 pm
Sun 12 pm - 4 pm

2013 Arizona State Convention

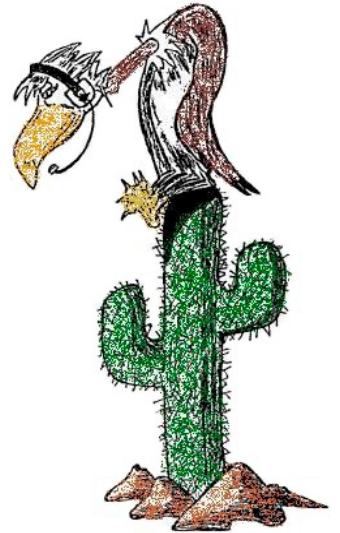
9th Annual

Yuma Hamfest

Yuma, Arizona

Feb. 15 & 16, 2013

Yuma County Fairgrounds
2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona



www.yumahamfest.org

Check the Website for Additional Information
and a Current Schedule of Activities and Seminars

<p>Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon</p>	<p>Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm</p>	<p>Buzzard BBQ & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm</p>
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Vendors & Exhibitors
Consignment Sales
License Testing
Hourly Door Prizes
On-site RV Camping
Famous Buzzard BBQ
ARRL Speaker
\$5.00 Admission

Tailgating (Swap Meet)
Full Seminar Schedule
DXCC Card Checking
Incredible Grand Prizes
Emergency Preparedness
Admission Prize
Hospitality Area
Antenna Clinic & T-Hunt

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.840 (-) PL 88.5 Hz

Email Contact: info@yumahamfest.org



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio
Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of
our event.

The Yuma Hamfest is an American Radio
Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.



Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization

Counterpoise Submissions Requested

The Counterpoise is always looking for story ideas and submissions, pictures, and upcoming news articles. You can submit by sending your content to counterpoise@wa6bgs.us in WORD or PDF format. Photos can be sent in JPG, GIF, or most any other popular formats as well. Deadline is typically 7 days from the Members meeting, usually held on the second Thursday of each month. All members are urged to help out the Counterpoise and keep it active and entertaining. Hope to see your submissions soon!!

Joe - KJ6VMX - Counterpoise Editor

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The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON** Inc.

WA6BGS

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and see the options at the bottom for Submitting options

Date of Application: _____

Amount Paid: \$ _____ ☐ Cash or ☐ Check Check #: _____

Membership Type: ☐ Individual (\$20) ☐ Family (\$35)
 Membership Status: ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Returning Member
 Call Sign: First Name: Last Name: WAMO # (If renewing or returning):

ARRL Member: ☐ Yes ☐ No
 License Class: ☐ Technician ☐ General ☐ Extra ☐ Other:
 Address: City: State: Zip: PO Box:

Email ID: Phone: _____

Would you like a member badge? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Add Additional Members Here (Family Package):

First Name	Last Name	Call Sign	License Class	Wamo #	Badge
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>
					<input type="radio"/>

Submitting This Form

To submit this form mail it to P.O. Box 50 El Cajon, 92022

-OR-

Bring to the next club meeting or go to www.wa6bgs.us and join on line (click on Club info / Join)

Cash Payments - Get a Receipt from the Club Treasurer. Make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.

Members with FCC Call Signs are Full Members with voting privileges, Members without FCC Call Signs are Associate members without voting privileges

YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. is a 501(c)(7) Corporation. Donations are NOT tax Deductable.